

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-15, drawn to a method of identifying a receptor, classified in class 436, subclass 507.
- II. Claims 16-30, drawn to a method of identifying a ligand, classified in class 435, subclass 7.92.
- III. Claims 31-56, drawn to a method of identifying a compound that mediates the binding activity between a known ligand and a known receptor, classified in class 436, subclass 536.
- IV. Claims 57-62, drawn to a method of identifying for a compound that blocks viral entry and inhibits viral infection, classified in class 435, subclass 235.1.
- V. Claims 63-64, drawn to a composition for use in identifying specific binding activity between a ligand and a receptor, classified in class 436, subclass 543.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-15), with traverse, as further explained below. Applicants request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed on the basis that it does not pose a serious search burden on the Examiner. Applicants contend that a search for art describing methods for identifying a receptor will inevitably also encompass art describing related methods for identifying ligands, methods for identifying particular ligands and receptors, as well as methods for determining binding activity between ligands and receptors.

Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 529702000100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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